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CITY MANAGER

# City of Lawrence KANSAS

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October 1, 2008

Mr. Michael Eglinski  
City Auditor  
City of Lawrence, Kansas

*Re: Pavement Condition Measures Performance Audit*

Dear Michael,

Pursuant to City law you have provided me with a copy of the draft pavement condition measures performance audit. We are very pleased with the findings which confirm the reliability of both our measurement processes and the resulting data. We also agree with your four recommendations for improving various elements of this very important City program. As you would expect, these recommendations largely focus on staffing resources and priorities.

As we understand your first recommendation, it is to continue doing what we are already doing: provide regular updates to our pavement condition measurements. We plan to do this. We are challenged with providing the appropriate level of staffing for this measurement tool. Specifically, the 2009 budget continues the elimination of the GIS Analyst position in the Public Works Department. This budget reduction is necessary because of limited resources available to the Department. We are using temporary staff and other resources to respond to this important responsibility. We will continue to seek to provide adequate staffing to maintain our pavement condition measurement tools.

Similarly, your second recommendation focuses on documenting the database for the pavement condition measurements. We agree with this recommendation. The same staffing issues which challenge our upkeep of the pavement condition tool also challenge our ability to prepare the "how-to" manual for our system. We recognize the importance of documenting our pavement condition system and will put the necessary resources toward this project. I believe it is appropriate to note that we have focused on what we believe to be the top priority: inspecting and documenting our street conditions and putting our limited resources where we can best use them **prior** to using those same resources to prepare the "how-to" manual.



The third recommendation recommends that a written data back up policy be adopted for the pavement measurement data. We agree with this recommendation. On a daily basis the City backs up numerous data operations. We believe this recommendation will be addressed in a more comprehensive fashion through our already existing business continuity planning efforts.

Your final recommendation focuses on City Code requirements concerning excavation permits. We agree with the recommendation to review our entire right-of-way management tools. Your audit did not examine or document particular issues with excavation, and we believe that we have successfully worked with franchised utilities (gas, electric, phone, cable, etc. ) on this issue in the majority of circumstances. Because of the physical location of utilities in Lawrence, much pavement excavation involves City water and wastewater facilities which coordinates their work with other City departments. We should balance a complete review of our right-of-way management tools (excavation ordinance, other new ordinances) with our ability to staff enforcement of such laws, any likely City benefit in actual pavement condition, and any burden placed on either private or public utilities.

We believe we can respond to the recommendations in a timely manner, likely by the first half of next year.

Again, thank you for your work and your results confirming our pavement condition measurement tools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David L. Corliss', written in a cursive style.

David L. Corliss  
City Manager